

## TO THE PEOPLE OF KANSAS, GREETINGS:

WHEREAS, we recognize the skills that people with disabilities bring to our workforce, and we rededicate ourselves to improving employment opportunities in both the public and private sectors for Kansans with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, we know that work builds self-esteem and provides financial security. People with disabilities who work are healthier. It is vitally important that people with disabilities are employed in integrated settings in the workforce; and

WHEREAS, the Nation has a 7.8% unemployment rate and people with disabilities have a 13.5% unemployment rate; and

WHEREAS, Kansas is promoting employment through:

- Employment First Initiative within state government by making competitive, integrated employment the first option for people with disabilities applying for services,
- Providing work incentives through the state contracting process,
- Providing work opportunities in the KanCare program,
- Project Search, which provides employability skills training and workplace internships for individuals with significant disabilities,
- Great Expectations, a systems change project to empower people with intellectual disabilities to achieve competitive, integrated employment and self-sufficiency,
- Disability Mentoring Day, a mentoring program to reduce barriers to employment for people with disabilities within local communities and provide job shadowing opportunities for students and job seekers,
- Family Employment Awareness Training (FEAT), a program to encourage a family member with a disability to seek employment and to educate families about resources and opportunities for employment,
- Soaring to New Heights, a high school transition curriculum class designed to help high school students with disabilities stretch beyond preconceived notions about their futures and construct new, realistic visions and goals for themselves, and
- Providing health insurance through the Working Healthy and Work programs:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Sam Brownback, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF KANSAS, do hereby proclaim October of 2012, as

## *Kansas Disability Employment Awareness Month*

in Kansas and urge all Kansans to be open to the possibilities of mentoring, internships, and employment of people with disabilities whose many talents and gifts they bring to our public, not for profit and business world.

DONE:                      At the Capitol in Topeka  
                                 under the Great Seal of the  
                                 State this 9<sup>th</sup> day of  
                                 October, A.D. 2012